

CRIMINALIST III/DNA TECHNICAL LEADER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The fundamental reason the Criminalist III/DNA Technical Leader exists is to perform highly specialized criminalistics evaluations in connection with the identification and comparison of physical evidence submitted to the Crime Laboratory for DNA analysis. This classification is non-supervisory and receives general supervision from the Crime Laboratory Manager.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Consults and coordinates with fingerprint experts, police officers, attorneys, private experts, and others on plans for the solution of problems involving the analysis, comparison, and identification of physical evidence. Instructs and trains law enforcement officers in a classroom setting regarding the collection of evidence and criminalistics methodologies.

Prepares written scientific examination reports with clearly organized thoughts using scientific symbols, proper sentence construction, punctuation, and grammar in order to represent laboratory results. Inspects and evaluates equipment, objects, information, and work-related conditions to determine compliance with prescribed operating and safety standards, regulations, and guidelines including manufacturer's specifications on computerized scientific equipment and national laboratory accreditation standards.

Installs and replaces computer software and scientific instrument parts to maintain and update laboratory equipment. Enters data or information into a personal or laboratory computer in order to complete and analyze scientific examinations. Searches for, collects, and preserves evidence for laboratory analysis, and reconstructs situations and physical evidence of a crime. Prepares graphs to perform scientific examinations.

Works with chemicals using specialized non-routine, protective equipment to perform laboratory analyses. Conducts research and analyzes data to perform scientific examinations. Develops laboratory analytical procedures. Performs mathematical and statistical computations in order to complete scientific examinations. Interprets graphs, charts, and mathematical formulas to check scientific reports.

Comprehends and makes inferences from written material such as laboratory reports, scientific journals/literature and testimony transcripts to maintain current expertise in the criminalistics field. Prioritizes own casework. Learns job-related material through on-the-job training and in a classroom setting regarding updated and new criminalistics laboratory techniques.

Listens, communicates, and deals effectively with management, public officials, attorneys, representatives of other law enforcement agencies, city employees, and the general public.

Searches for, collects, and preserves evidence for laboratory analysis, and reconstructs situations and physical evidence of a crime in the demonstration of proof of the connection of persons, instruments or materials with the crime.

Maintain regular consistent attendance and punctuality.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of:

The scientific analyses performed involve utilizing chemical, microscopic, and chromatographic techniques and instrumentations to examine, identify, and evaluate physical evidence which may include: hair, fibers, fabrics, firearms, bullets, cartridge cases, suspected drug-containing substances, fire debris, paint, glass, soil, blood, urine, and other biological substances.

Serology, DNA testing, and/or trace evidence analyses.

Ability to:

Use common hand tools such as a screwdriver and various instrument maintenance tools to maintain, set up, and clean the laboratory instruments.

Prepare written scientific examination reports with clearly organized thoughts using scientific symbols, proper sentence construction, punctuation, and grammar.

Prepare and conducting training programs for officers and other police employees.

Work with chemicals and other hazardous materials.

Operate, maintain, program, and interpret data from highly technical and/or computerized instrumentation.

Education and Experience

Requires any combination of training, education, and experience equivalent to graduation from a four-year college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in chemistry, criminalistics, or closely related physical or natural science and a Master's Degree in Forensic Science, Chemistry or Biology and have successfully completed a minimum of the equivalent of 12 semester credit hours of combination of undergraduate and graduate course work covering areas of biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology or other subjects which provide a understanding of forensic DNA analysis as well as statistics and or population genetics as it applies to forensic DNA analysis; at least seven years experience as a Criminalist in a recognized laboratory actively engaged in the forensic sciences, a master's degree in a related physical or natural science may count towards three years of experience. Must have three years experience performing casework in a forensic DNA laboratory; experience testifying in court as an expert witness; and state of the art expertise in the forensic biology and DNA areas of criminalistics with general working knowledge of all other areas of criminalistics.

FLSA Status: Exempt

HR Ordinance Status: Unclassified